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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Talking Points for the DCI
2 December 1983Instances of Hostile Artillery Fire From the Matn

The area known as the Matn or Upper Matn encompasses two Lebanese administrative districts north of the Beirut-Damascus Highway--the Baabda and Matn districts. There has been a heavy concentration of Syrian as well as Druze and probable Palestinian artillery in the Matn, chiefly around Hammana. [REDACTED]

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Although it is likely that some of these guns played a role in the August-September fighting, there are only a few instances where it can be proven that hostile fire originated from the Matn. These incidents are listed below.

-- [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] and north of the highway firing in a westerly direction. The guns--of unspecified caliber--fired 4 or 5 rounds every 5 to 10 minutes over a period of 75 minutes. [REDACTED]

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-- [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] Druze 120-mm mortars firing from positions in Hammana. The 120-mm mortar has a range of only 5.5 kilometers, and the target was probably in the eastern Alayh district, south of the highway. [REDACTED]

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-- [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 107-mm rocket launcher, reportedly Palestinian, firing from a position just south of Hammana. The 107-mm rocket launcher with a range of about 8 kilometers, may have been firing at targets in the Bhamdun area. [REDACTED]

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-- 20 September: The USS Rogers and USS Virginia silenced a target probably firing on the US Ambassador's residence. The target was reportedly located in Al Abbadiyah, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 25X1
2.5 miles north of Alayh, and was probably either a 25X1
Palestinian or Druze rocket launcher. [REDACTED] 25X1

Since the cease-fire of 26 September there have been no proven instances of hostile rocket or artillery fire originating from the Matn. [REDACTED] 25X1

Known Syrian, Palestinian, and Druze artillery units in the Matn and Baabda districts are covered in current US military targets lists. [REDACTED] 25X1

Incidents of Hostile Artillery Fire from the Shuf

The bulk of the artillery support for the Druze-Palestinian drive in the Shuf during the fighting last September was based in the Alayh district south of the Beirut-Damascus Highway. In view of the tremendous amount of ordnance expended during the fighting it would be almost impossible to pinpoint any one gun position as responsible for firing at government or MNF positions.

[REDACTED] 25X1
Since the cease-fire went into effect, Druze and possibly Palestinian gun positions in the towns of Kayfun, Ash Shuwayfat, Baysur, Alayh, and Bhamdun among others have probably fired on MNF and Lebanese Army positions in and around Beirut. [REDACTED]

There are few if any Syrian gun positions south of the highway, although individual batteries could be relocated quickly into the area for specific firing missions. In view of the 27 kilometer range of many of the Syrian pieces, such a deployment probably would not be necessary. [REDACTED] 25X1

Known artillery positions in the Shuf and Alayh districts are not covered in current US military target lists because the guns are not considered to be politically effective targets for a retaliatory strike. [REDACTED] 25X1

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DDI/NESA/AI, [REDACTED] (2Dec83)

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